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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Large Entity)*(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*Docket No.
13630 (JA9-1999-0053 US1)

Total Pages in this Submission

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTSBox Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

VIDEO CONTENTS ACCESS METHOD THAT USES TRAJECTORIES OF OBJECTS AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

and invented by:

Masato Kurokawa
Tomio EchigoIf a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

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Enclosed are:

Application Elements

1. ☒ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having 18 pages and including the following:
 - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - b. ☐ Cross References to Related Applications *(if applicable)*
 - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development *(if applicable)*
 - d. ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix *(if applicable)*
 - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
 - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
 - g. ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings *(if drawings filed)*
 - h. ☒ Detailed Description
 - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
 - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Large Entity)

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Application Elements (Continued)

3. ☒ Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)
- a. ☒ Formal Number of Sheets 5
- b. ☐ Informal Number of Sheets _____
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
- a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy) ☐ Unexecuted
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional application only)
- c. ☒ With Power of Attorney ☐ Without Power of Attorney
- d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (usable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied
under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby
incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche (Appendix)
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all must be included)
- a. ☐ Paper Copy
- b. ☐ Computer Readable Copy (identical to computer copy)
- c. ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

Accompanying Application Parts

8. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement (when there is an assignee)
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Acknowledgment postcard
14. ☒ Certificate of Mailing
- ☐ First Class ☒ Express Mail (Specify Label No.): EL591789482US

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Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)

15. ☒ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)

16. ☒ Additional Enclosures (please identify below):

Associate Power of Attorney and Request for Change of Mailing Address

Fee Calculation and Transmittal

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	10	- 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00
Indep. Claims	2	- 3 =	0	x \$78.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$690.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose)					\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$690.00

- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 50-0510/IBM as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ Charge the amount of \$690.00 as filing fee.
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- ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).


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VIDEO CONTENTS ACCESS METHOD THAT USES TRAJECTORIES OF
OBJECTS AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical Field

10 The present invention relates to a method and an
apparatus for using the trajectory of an object to access
video contents, for example, to specify and display a
specific video image scene.

PRIOR ART

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25

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To access the contents of a video, which constitutes a
sequential media, a time must be designated for the
portion that is to be accessed. Relative to this, the
advantage of digital video is that immediate access to a
desired scene is possible so long as a time is
designated. However, to access a desired portion, the
use of a specific guide is required. Presently,
according to a typical technique used for this purpose, a
story board is used whereon shot change images are
arranged, and a desired shot change image can be accessed
by clicking on the image. But there are video contents
for which shot changes are meaningless, and only an image
acquired at a specific time in a scene between shots can
be used as a representative image. For example, in
spots, shot changes are repeated for unimportant scenes
to prevent a user from becoming bored, while for an
important scene, images acquired using a camera with
which it is anticipated the best images can be obtained

are continued so as not to miss a moment of the important scene. Therefore, since an important scene may be missed by using a representative image obtained as a shot change, an interface is required with which a scene can be designated an important scene.

According to an example method for accessing the above video contents, the trajectory of an object is extracted from the video, and is used for a video search. With this method, however, the trajectory of the object is displayed and is superimposed on a video image on a display device, so that the display image is difficult to see and the video contents can not be efficiently accessed. Further, according to this example, the video search is performed only by matching trajectories. In addition, even if the video contents can be accessed the access efficiency is not satisfactory.

To resolve the above objectives, it is one object of the present invention to provide a video contents access method, for which the trajectory of an object is used, whereby the trajectory of an object that is displayed separately from a video image is used to efficiently specify and display a video image scene desired by a user, and also to provide an apparatus therefor.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method for using the trajectory of an object to access video contents to, for example, specify and display a specific video image scene. Such a video contents access method comprises the

steps of: extracting objects from video contents;
displaying the movements of the objects as trajectories
on a specific projection screen; specifying locations
along the trajectories; and accessing a desired scene
5 contained in the video contents.

Furthermore, according to the present invention, a video
contents access apparatus comprises: display means for
displaying, as trajectories on a specific projection
10 screen, the movements of objects extracted from video
contents; and instruction means for specifying locations
along the trajectories, whereby the above described video
contents access method is performed.

According to the present invention, the objects, such as
the states of players, are specified by using
trajectories displayed on a projection screen, without
directly providing a video for a user. Therefore, the
process performed by a computer is simplified, and it is
20 anticipated that the status of a game will be reported to
a user, even if the trajectories of the objects are
displayed at high speed. In addition, the user can use a
trajectory to determine which video frame is to be
accessed, and only when the user selected a point on the
25 trajectory can the current frame jump to a corresponding
frame and can a video be replayed. Furthermore, since
the information carried by a trajectory interacts with an
actual object in the contents, such as an individual
player or a ball, to the user it will seem as though he
30 or she is controlling it directly. As a result, the
desired video image scene can be efficiently specified
and displayed.

As the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the trajectories of the objects are those that are displayed, in order with time for video contents, in a time interval lying between a currently displayed video frame and a preceding video frame that was displayed a predetermined time period earlier. Furthermore, a user can control the speed at which the trajectories of the objects are displayed. A scale (play advantage) for representing an important scene is displayed on a projection screen by using the trajectories (Traj) of the objects, which are calculated using the following equation: Traj = (object ID, start time, end time, line graph representation). The video data are digital video data, or analog video data that can manage time code. Furthermore, a window for displaying images of said video contents and a window for displaying said trajectories of said objects are displayed on the same projection screen. To specify said locations on said trajectories, points on the trajectories are designated by using a pointing device. In this embodiment, a plurality of video objects are used, and with this arrangement, the present invention can be efficiently carried out.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a flowchart for explaining the concept of a method, according to the present invention, whereby the

trajectory of an object is used for accessing video contents.

5 Fig. 2 is a photo diagram in which, for a soccer game that is used as an example, a window that is used for displaying images of video contents and a window that is used for displaying the trajectory of an object are shown on the same projection screen.

10 Fig. 3 is a flowchart for explaining one embodiment of the present invention wherein a window for displaying images of video contents and a window for displaying the trajectory of an object are shown on the same projection screen.

15 Fig. 4 is a photo diagram showing an example normal display screen for the flowchart in Fig. 3.

20 Fig. 5 is a photo diagram showing an example fast forward confirmation screen for the example in Fig. 3.

25 Fig. 6 is a diagram showing the arrangement of an apparatus for carrying out the video contents accessing method of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE
INVENTION

30 Fig. 1 is a flowchart for explaining the concept, according to the present invention, of a method for accessing video contents by using the trajectories of objects. In Fig. 1, first, an object is extracted from

video contents using a conventional area division method
(step S1). Then, the movement of the object is displayed
as a trajectory on a specific projection screen (S2).
The time interval at which the movement of the object is
5 obtained as the trajectory is not especially specified.
However, if the trajectory is obtained for all the time
intervals, depending on the size of the projection
screen, the number of objects and the movement speeds,
the trajectory may become too complicated, and specifying
10 a frame during the following process will not be
possible. Therefore, it is preferable that the selected
time interval be between a currently displayed frame and
a preceding frame that was displayed several seconds to
several minutes earlier. In this manner, the video
15 contents can be scanned. Following this, a location on
the trajectory is specified by using a pointing device
(step S3). And finally, a desired scene in the video
contents is accessed. That is, the current frame jumps
to the video frame of the desired scene, which is then
20 displayed as a static scene, or replay is started
beginning with the selected scene (step S4).

An explanation will now be given for a case where the
present invention is applied for a sports video, such as
25 one for a soccer match, as an example of the method used
for accessing video contents by using the trajectory of
an object. In a sports video, such as one for a soccer
match, the position occupied by a player on a field, the
trajectory of the player's movement and the trajectory of
30 a soccer ball are very meaningful information. These
data can be manually entered, or can be obtained by
having a computer extract the objects represented by the

player and the ball, and shift information for a camera
that picks up the objects can be acquired by recovering a
camera parameter. These data for a specific scene can be
represented by using images as a set of trajectories on
the field, and what is depicted in the video can be
observed.

Fig. 2 is a diagram showing the existing state wherein
the trajectories of the movements of a plurality of
objects, i.e., players, during a predetermined time
period are displayed on a projection screen in an
overhead view of a soccer field. In Fig. 2, in a soccer
scene covering a 20 second period, the movements of the
main players are indicated by thin black lines, and the
movement of a ball is indicated by a thick red line. To
obtain this display, the objects are extracted from a
scene shot during an actual soccer match, the camera
movement parameter is automatically extracted, and the
movements of the individual objects are replayed on a
projection screen representing the soccer field. The
ball is passed several times in this scene, and the
passes are apparently identified on the screen.

The above representation is meaningful for video
contents, such as sports or surveillance, for which space
can be posited as a background, such as the soccer field
in Fig. 2, and wherein the position and movement of each
object on the background and a positional relationship
between them are closely related to the contents. In
accordance with a coordinate string and the time interval
used in the contents, the information concerning the

trajectories (Traj) are internally represented as follows:

Traj = (object ID, start time, end time, line representation), wherein the line representation denotes the coordinate string of an object in an interval extending from the start time to the end time. This string can be a time series of coordinate values, or can be represented by approximate lines. When approximate line representation is used, the time at which the coordinate value and the trajectory pass through a specific point must be described as a pair, such as (x,y,t), for individual nodes at the approximate lines. As a result, if one point on the trajectory in the field is designated, a point of intersection with the closest line is calculated, and the time between two adjacent nodes is interpolated to determine a corresponding time. When the location is moved along the trajectory by using a pointing device, such as a mouse, a preceding or succeeding video scene can be accessed along the corresponding time. Of course, the names of actual players can be provided for the object IDs, and the player's names can be superimposed on the individual trajectories.

An explanation will now be given for an example where the above data are used to scan the contents (e.g., a soccer match) for a specific period of time. Since all the trajectories are represented for an actual game of 90 minutes, they are written on the field many times.

Therefore, the movements of the objects are represented by drawing the trajectories only for a specific time period (e.g., one minute). A mechanism, in the form of a

slider, for adjusting the display speed for the trajectory is provided for a user.

Further, in this invention, a specific scale (play
5 advantage) that represents an important scene can be displayed at the same time, separately from the soccer field, on the projection screen in Fig. 2 on which the trajectories of the objects are displayed. For a soccer game, for example, the play advantage for a team is
10 represented as:

play advantage = $1.0 - (r/\text{sqrt}(W*W + H*H))$, wherein r denotes a distance representing how closely a player handling a ball has approached the goal of the opposing team; W denotes the length of a field along a touch line;
15 and 2H denotes the length along a goal line. If the play advantage is expressed as a graph, in accordance with the time required for the playback of the trajectory, the user can use the play advantage as a guide for adjusting the speed for the playback of the trajectory.

Specifically, while a user monitors the playback of the trajectory and the play advantage, he or she can adjust the display speed and halt the playback at an appropriate and interesting scene. The user can move and click the
25 pointing device to specify an interesting trajectory on the field at the time at which the video is halted, so that the actual video contents can be accessed. When, for example, the video is accessed in consonance with the movement of the ball, a scene wherein specific passes are made can be accessed. Further, if the user wants to view
30 the video in consonance with the movement of a specific player, the user need only point at the trajectory for

that player. Furthermore, if, as on a soccer field, areas are defined (goal areas or penalty areas), or when the user wants to view the movement of a specific player in the penalty area, only the intersection of the trajectory and the penalty area need be designated and the pertinent frame can be accessed and replayed.

For video contents, such as those obtained for sports relay broadcasting using a plurality of cameras (when a plurality of cameras is used to film a game), assuming that the timings used for the cameras are almost fully synchronized, the spatial representation essentially indicates the same thing. Therefore, with trajectories used as media, it is easy to view the states of the players from another angle at a specific time, and the surrounding circumstances when a specific play is performed.

An explanation will now be given for an example wherein, by using the video contents accessing method of the present invention, a window for displaying images of video contents and a window for displaying the trajectories of objects are displayed on the same production screen. Fig. 3 is a flowchart for this example. In Fig. 3, first, in the normal replay process (step S11), normal video replay is performed in a video replay window, while in an object replay window, normal replay is performed for an overhead view of an object for which the trajectory, for a specific time period, remains that which corresponds to the replayed video portion. Then, on a confirmation screen for fast forward viewing (step S12), in the video replay window the video is fast

forwarded (frame skipping and displaying), while the
overhead view object, for which the above trajectory
remains the same, is displayed in the object replay
window and, at the same time, the above play advantage is
5 also displayed. Then, when a point in the displayed
trajectory interval is pointed at (or the fast forward is
halted), the scene moves to the head of a corresponding
frame, so that normal replay is resumed (step S13). The
processing for this example is performed by repeating
10 steps S11, S12 and S13. The individual steps will now be
described.

Fig. 4 is a diagram showing an example display screen in
the normal replay process (step S11). In Fig. 4, window
15 1 is used to display images of video contents, and window
2 is used to display the trajectory of an object. In
window 1, video data are replayed. Digital video data,
such as MPEG-1/2, or analog video data, which can manage
time code, can be used as the video data. In window 2,
20 the object in the overhead view is replayed. To replay an
object, meta-data (the location of an object, the team of
the object, an object ID, etc.) for an object extracted
from video data, and the filming condition (the location
of a camera and a moving parameter) are displayed as
25 needed. In the example in Fig. 4, the video data are
replayed and displayed at normal speed in accordance with
a change in the positional information for an object (a
player or a ball). Assuming that the meta-data for the
object have previously been extracted, based on the
30 location of a camera, which represents the filming
condition, and the moving parameter for the camera, the

meta-data are converted to plot the location of the object in the overhead view.

Fig. 5 is a diagram showing an example display for a confirmation screen for fast forward (step S12). In the example in Fig. 5, window 1 for displaying images of video contents is not shown. In window 1, video is fast forwarded (frame skipping and displaying). Since during fast forward all the video frames are not replayed, a time interval that is appropriate for the replay speed is used for the replay of the frames. In window 2, for displaying the trajectory of an object, the overhead view of an object that continues to follow the trajectory for a specific time period is displayed. That is, all the objects that appear in the film are converted into those in the overhead view, and are displayed as moving objects on a pitch screen. When the film is fast forwarded, noise may be generated or the movement of an object may be missed; however, when the objects moving on the pitch screen are used, the game as a whole can be observed. Further, since the trajectory of an object is also displayed at specific time intervals, the chances are reduced that the movement of the object will be missed during fast forwarding. In the example in Fig. 5, the play advantage of a team is displayed along the time axis in the lower part the window 2. That is, a numerical value, which is a reference (play advantage) for the fast forward speed, is displayed along the time axis, and the user uses the value of the play advantage as a reference when increasing or reducing the replay speed. As for the play advantage, the possibility of a player scoring in a soccer game is used as a reference, and the distance from

an approaching player who is handling a ball to the goal of an opposing team is represented along the time axis. Different colors are used to identify the teams.

5 Finally, the resumption of the normal replay (step S13) is performed as follows. Since during fast forwarding a user may pass a desired scene, the user can use a mouse to click on a point along the trajectory to automatically track a corresponding frame.

10 Fig. 6 is a diagram showing an example arrangement of an apparatus for carrying out the video contents accessing method of the present invention. In Fig. 6, the apparatus comprises: a video device 11, for replaying
15 video contents; a computer 12, including a circuit for extracting objects from video contents; a display device 13, for displaying the movements of the objects as trajectories on a specific projection screen; and a
20 pointing device 14, for specifying a location on the trajectory. With this arrangement, the pointing device 14 is used to click on a location along the trajectory on the display device 13, so that a desired scene contained in the video contents can be accessed.

25 The following functional arrangement of the above described present invention is the most important feature.

(1) A function, for using an interface that uses a trajectory on a projection screen to represent the status
30 of a player, is provided for designating a point on the trajectory using the pointing device and jumping from the designated point to a corresponding video frame, or for

moving a pointer along the trajectory to replay a corresponding video frame. This function is used for efficient video accessing.

(2) The trajectories of objects, for scanning the video contents, are displayed in order with time for the contents, and the status of the contents is reported to the user. A user does not experience an odd sensation even when the speed at which the trajectory is displayed is higher than the actual video rate, and throughout a game can view the movements of players at a high speed.

(3) A method for controlling the display speed for trajectories is provided for the user. Thus, the user can fast forward unimportant portions, and replay in slow motion the trajectory of important portions. At this time, the scale (play advantage) that indicates an important scene, e.g., a numerical value that represents the possibility of a player scoring in a soccer game, is displayed at the same time, so that the scale can act as a guideline and help a user decide how to adjust the speed, and when to halt the display and access the video data.

As is described above in detail, the objects, such as the states of players, are specified by using trajectories displayed on a projection screen, without directly providing a video for a user. Therefore, the process performed by a computer is simplified, and it is anticipated that the status of a game will be reported to a user, even if the trajectories of the objects are displayed at high speed. In addition, the user can use a trajectory to determine which video frame is to be accessed, and only when the user has selected a point on

the trajectory can the current frame jump to a
corresponding frame and can a video be replayed.
Furthermore, since the information carried by a
trajectory interacts with an actual object in the
5 contents, such as an individual player or a ball, to the
user it will seem as though he or she is controlling it
directly. As a result, the desired video image scene can
be efficiently specified and displayed.

10 While the invention has been particularly shown and
described with respect to preferred embodiments thereof,
it will be understood by those skilled in the art that
the foregoing and other changes in form and details may
be made therein without departing from the spirit and
15 scope of the invention.

Claims

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1 1. A video contents access method that uses trajectories
2 of objects, comprising the steps of: extracting objects
3 from video contents; displaying the movements of said
4 objects as trajectories on a specific projection screen;
5 specifying locations along said trajectories; and
6 accessing a desired scene contained in said video
7 contents.

1 2. The video contents access method according to claim 1,
2 wherein said trajectories of said objects are those
3 displayed, in order with time for video contents, in a
4 time interval between a currently displayed video frame
5 and a preceding video frame displayed a predetermined
6 time period earlier.

1 3. The video contents access method according to claim
2 1, wherein a user can control the speed at which said
3 trajectories of said objects are displayed.

1 4. The video contents access method according to claim
2 1, wherein a scale (play advantage) for representing an
3 important scene is displayed with said trajectories of
4 said objects on a projection screen.

1 5. The video contents access method according to claim
2 1, wherein said trajectories (Traj) of said objects are
3 calculated by using the following equation:

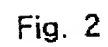
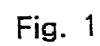
1 10. A video contents access apparatus comprising: display
2 means for displaying, as trajectories on a specific
3 projection screen, the movements of objects extracted
4 from video contents; and instruction means for specifying
5 locations along said trajectories, wherein locations
6 along said trajectories are specified by said instruction
7 means to access a desired scene in said video contents.

VIDEO CONTENTS ACCESS METHOD THAT USES TRAJECTORIES OF
OBJECTS AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 The present invention provides a method and an apparatus,
for accessing video contents by using the trajectory of
an object, whereby the trajectory of an object that is
displayed separately from a video image is used to
efficiently specify and display a video image scene
10 desired by a user.

More particularly, the present invention relates to a
method and an apparatus for using the trajectory of an
object to access video contents, for example, to specify
15 and display a specific video image scene. Such a video
contents access method comprises the steps of: extracting
objects from video contents; displaying movements of the
objects as trajectories on a specific projection screen;
specifying locations on the trajectories; and accessing a
20 desired scene of the video contents. An apparatus is so
designed that it performs the above method.



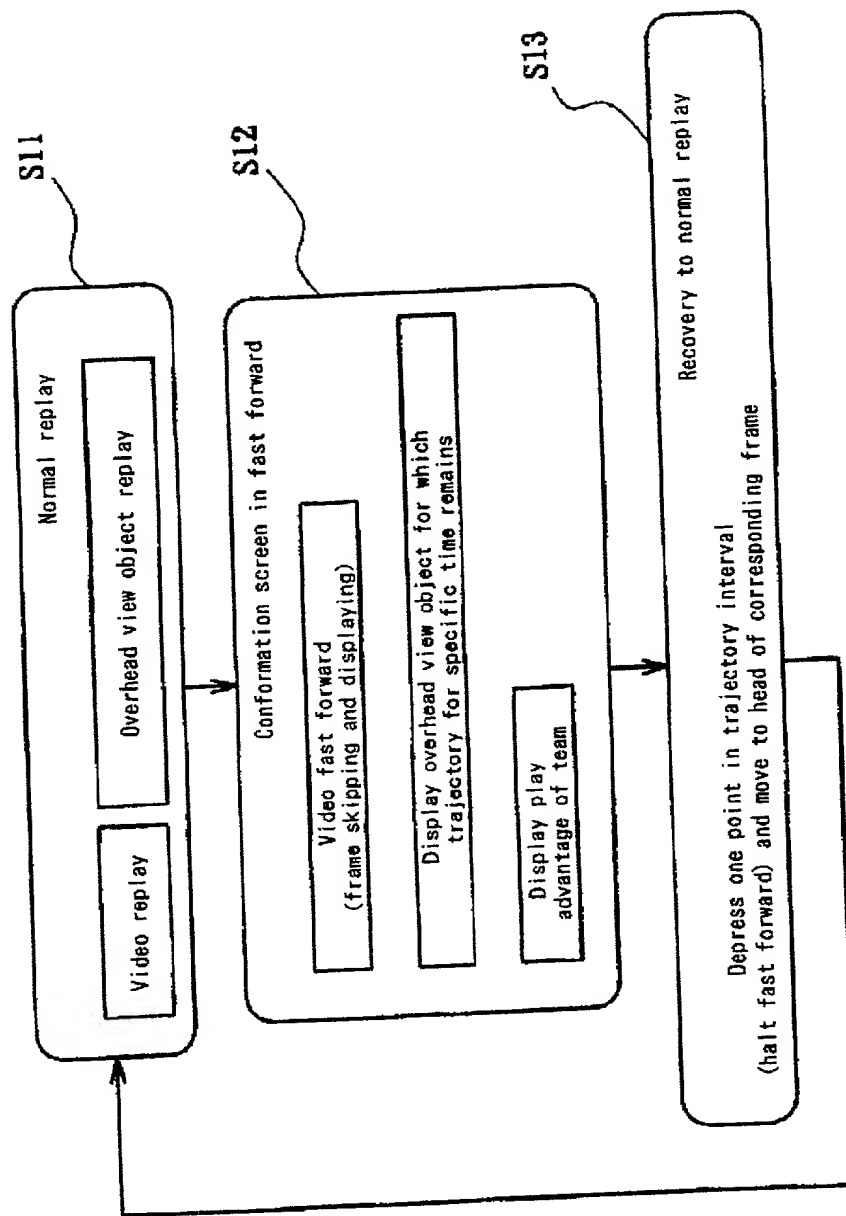


Fig. 3

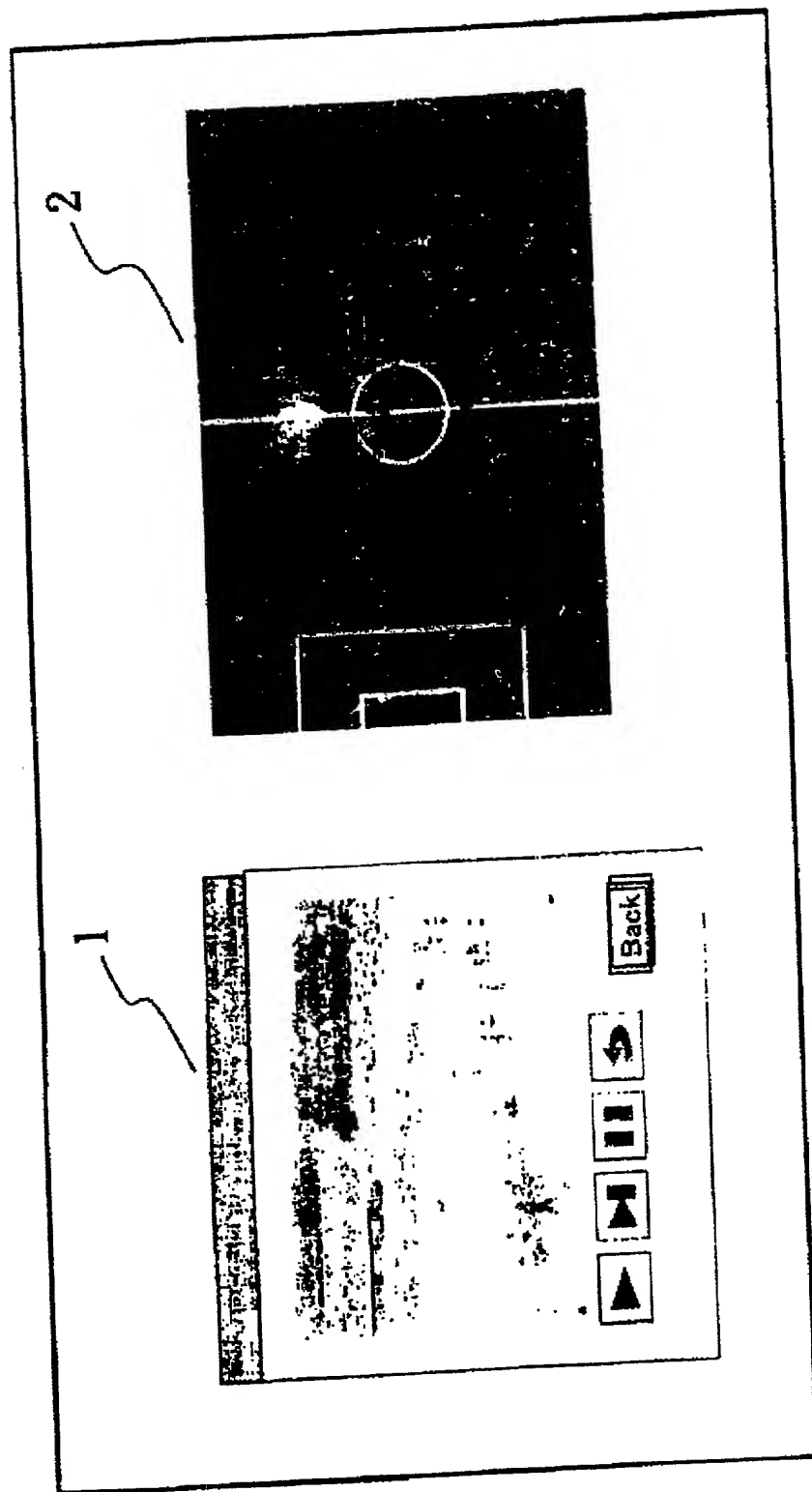


Fig. 4

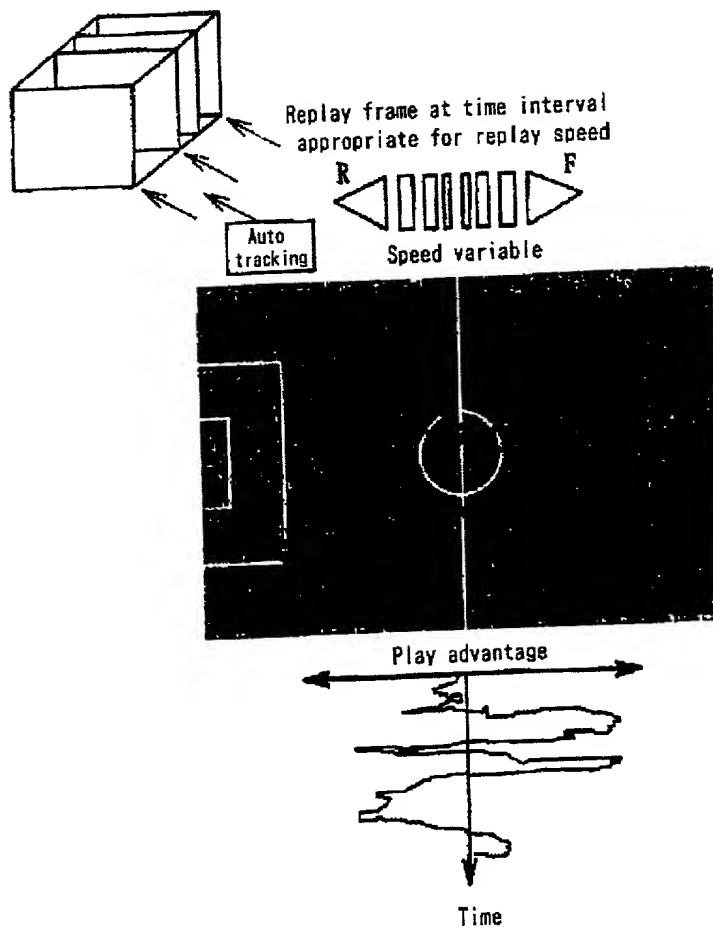


Fig. 5

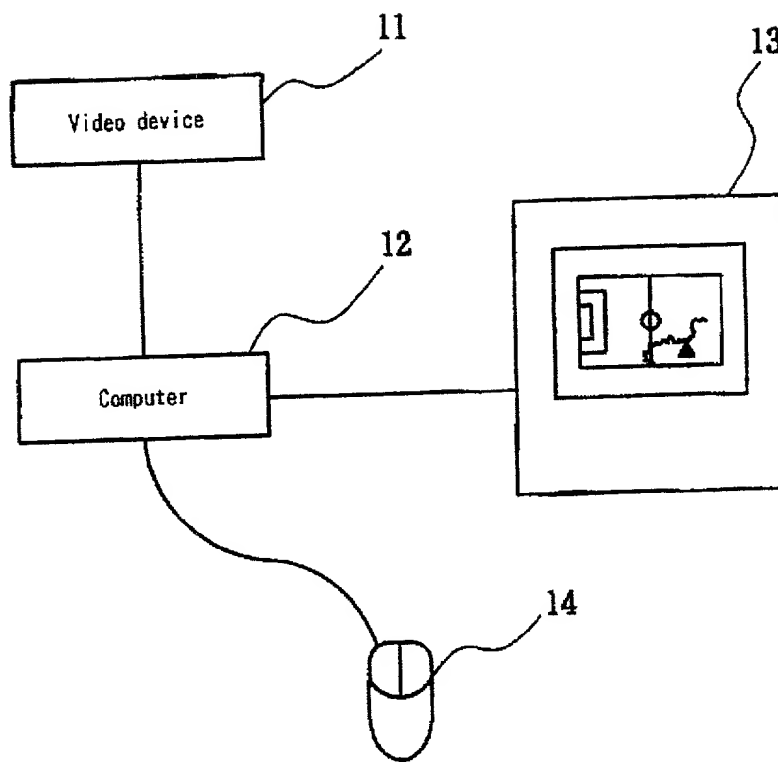


Fig. 6

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: VIDEO CONTENTS ACCESS METHOD THAT USES TRAJECTORIES OF OBJECTS AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

the specification of which (check one)

x is attached hereto.

_____ was filed on _____ as United States Application Number _____

or PCT International Application Number _____

and was amended on _____ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application, having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)	Priority Claimed
<u>21-208317</u> <u>Japan</u> <u>23/July/1999</u>	<u> X </u> Yes <u> </u> No
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)	
_____	<u> </u> Yes <u> </u> No
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)	
_____	<u> </u> Yes <u> </u> No
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)	

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)
_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States Application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States, or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to the patentability of this application as defined in 37 CFR §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

_____	_____	_____
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
_____	_____	_____
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number).

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